

**COMMENTS OF [City/Village/County/School District]**  
**ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION WORKSHOP ON RESOURCE ADEQUACY**  
**IN MIDCONTINENT INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR (MISO) ZONE 4**

The citizens of Randolph County, Illinois are submitting these comments to the Illinois Commerce Commission. The citizens of Randolph County appreciate the ICC's efforts in conducting this important proceeding to consider electric power supply issues in downstate Illinois. We also appreciate the opportunity for local stakeholders to express our views on these issues.

The citizens of Randolph County express our concern about the potential closing of the Baldwin Power Station and express to the ICC the severe adverse impacts this closing would have on our community. In considering policy options, it is critical that the ICC – and ultimately, the General Assembly and the Governor – consider the impacts of policy choices on the power plants that provide jobs, economic stimulus and fiscal support to Randolph County and the State of Illinois. We strongly compel you to recommend policy solutions like Illinois Senate Bill 2250 and House Bill 4141, which will implement changes to the downstate Illinois power markets. SB2250 and HB4141 will give Baldwin Power Station and other downstate power stations a fair opportunity to compete in the market and thus, remain in operation.

Baldwin Power Station initially began operations decades ago in our community and has been an economic driver since. Baldwin Power Station employs hundreds of area residents. Baldwin Power Station's payroll is millions annually. These are family-sustaining jobs, among the best available in Randolph County. Because these employees largely reside in the area and spend much of their income here, the continued operation of Baldwin Power Station supports hundreds of other local businesses and jobs. Baldwin Power Station purchases supplies and vendor services from local businesses that employ *local* residents.

Dynegy, as the owner of the Baldwin Power Station, is one of the largest property taxpayers to Randolph County and the Red Bud School District. In 2017, the property taxes paid by Baldwin Power Station totaled more than \$4.8 million dollars. The lost revenues would translate into reduced services and unendurable job loss. In other words ... devastation to our community and to Red Bud schools.

Through employee spending and power station purchases, sales taxes are also generated for Randolph County and the State of Illinois. Baldwin Power Station also pays Illinois Use Tax on out-of-state coal purchases. A significant amount of these taxes goes directly to Randolph County while the balance helps support the State of Illinois.

The Baldwin Power Station is an economic development attractor. Randolph County is fortunate to enjoy robust job growth via agribusiness, mining, manufacturing, and the Baldwin Power Station. This Spring, a new

company will open on the grounds of Baldwin Power Station. The company is not just new to the State of Illinois, it is new to the United States. The new company will employ more than 100 local people. Were it not for the Baldwin Power Station, this company would never have considered Randolph County as their flagship American plant.

In addition to being one of the largest employers and largest taxpayers in our community, Baldwin Power Station and its employees are also good community citizens. Many employees are local community leaders, serving on local government boards and community organizations. Baldwin Power Station employees help with events like river cleanups, Eaglefest, and numerous village and city festivals.

Ladies and gentlemen, closing the Baldwin Power Station will cause a severe downward spiral for Randolph County. Spending for goods and services will be reduced and there will be a ripple effect on local businesses. They will be forced to lay off employees or to close their doors.

It is important to Randolph County citizens that adequate supplies of electric power be provided at stable prices. We understand that some parties feel that some or all of the older Dynegy power stations should be retired. Baldwin Power Station is one of our largest employers and is well known as a reliable, low cost producer of electricity. Neither our local citizens, nor our local governments, which must budget and set local tax rates in advance, wish to see significant variations in electricity prices from year to year. From the point of view of the citizens of Randolph County, such fluctuations make it very difficult to budget and can affect our ability to provide the other governmental services we expect.

The citizens of Randolph County feel it is unwise for our community, and for downstate Illinois in general, to rely heavily on utilities and power plants located in other states (under the authority of different regulatory commissions), to supply the electricity that is needed for our homes and businesses. We also support the ongoing development of wind and solar generating facilities in Illinois, but we know that wind and solar generating facilities are called “variable generation” because their availability and output are dependent on daylight and a blowing wind, which does not necessarily correlate to the times when they are needed. The citizens of Randolph County have a reliable power station that is here in Randolph County, producing power 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Why close this facility while relying for our power supply on out-of-state plants that were not built to serve Illinois electricity consumers?

The people of Randolph County are *especially* concerned about the possibility of the Baldwin Power Station being closed because we have seen that Dynegy has closed other plants in recent years. These closures have included the Vermilion Power Station near Danville in Vermilion County; the Wood River Power Station in Madison County; one unit at the Baldwin Power Station here in Randolph County; and one unit at the Newton

Power Station in Jasper County. Our community is already experiencing adverse economic and employment impacts from closing one of the Baldwin units.

The citizens in our community will be extremely distressed and financially emaciated if the General Assembly and the Governor fail to act on the proposed Illinois-centered electric capacity market reforms that will allow Baldwin Power Station to remain in operation. Our citizens see on their electric bills every month an additional charge, imposed by the General Assembly and the Governor, to subsidize and sustain in operation two of the Exelon power stations, including one in far northwest Illinois. We understand the importance of these two power stations to their respective local communities and fully understand the reasons the General Assembly acted to create a subsidy mechanism, (that is paid for by every Ameren Illinois and ComEd customer in the State), to keep those plants in operation. Randolph County citizens also know that they are being charged on their electric bills every month for payments made to support renewable generators under a program mandated by the General Assembly. Should no action be taken by the General Assembly and the Governor regarding the Dynegy downstate plants, the citizens of our community would certainly wonder why the General Assembly and the Governor enacted and imposed a massive, 10-year subsidy program on ratepayers to support the Exelon plants, and have enacted a massive plan to subsidize the construction of new wind and solar plants through 15-year guaranteed contracts, but could do nothing to help to keep the Dynegy plants of downstate Illinois in operation, especially our station at Baldwin.

The citizens of Randolph County support the downstate capacity market reforms that have been proposed by Dynegy and are incorporated in House Bill 4141 and Senate Bill 2250. We also understand that Rockland Capital has proposed a similar policy reform. We understand these proposed solutions would provide for market reforms, and would not provide for a ratepayer-funded subsidy like the General Assembly and the Governor have already imposed for the Exelon plants. Under these proposals, the power plants that would be selected to be the capacity suppliers for downstate Illinois would be selected on the basis of a competitive bidding process on the basis of the prices the various power stations offered. We understand that one of the core changes that these proposals would implement would be that capacity contracts would be awarded three years in advance, rather than three months in advance. This certainly makes economic sense to the citizens of Randolph County. We understand the need for longer-term planning, beyond just the upcoming fiscal year, and we must always be planning for the longer-term future in our own operations. This approach will also help to ensure that the capacity suppliers to downstate Illinois are making longer-term commitments to serve the power needs of downstate Illinois.

In conclusion, Randolph County thanks the Illinois Commerce Commission's efforts in studying the important issues relating to long-term power supply and the related local economic impacts to Randolph County and downstate Illinois. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.